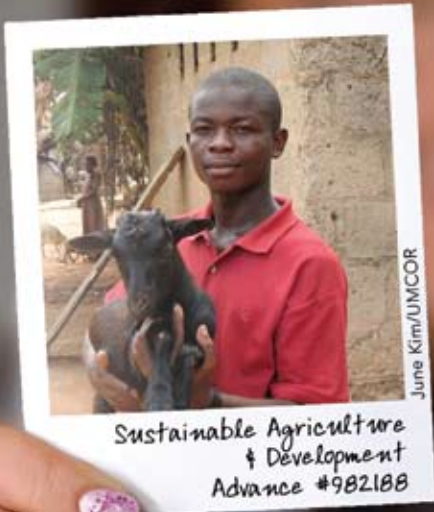


BI...connect



BI one being,
being one

How Does God Call Us to Connect?

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?*

*Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?*

*Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.*

*Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
You will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.*

*– Isaiah 58:6-9a, Today's New International Version**

- These verses call for our fast to be more than the giving up of our bread for 24 hours; they call for our lives to be a fast from injustice, oppression, and privilege.
- Our choices can (and do) affect our world...which fast will you choose?

Throughout his life, Jesus demonstrated a willingness to love and care for the 'least of these'— even when he offended the religious leaders or broke their laws. Jesus saw the importance of prioritizing people ahead of tradition, and this is what is being asked of Isaiah's audience in chapter 58. The idea isn't to show off how religious you are, Isaiah says.

The real fasting God wants is the kind that leads to freedom and wholeness for humankind.

– Mariellyn Dunlap, Pulaski, TN



What is B1?

- B1 stands for “one being, being one.”
- B1 is a 24-hour food fasting event which raises money to empower the poor and disempower unjust systems sustaining poverty in our world.
- B1 connects you to issues facing your sisters and brothers in your neighborhood, annual conference, country, and around the world.
- B1 is an event that introduces a different way of life. A life in which you seek to see the connections between you and your sisters in Ghana, between your Ghanaian sisters and your brothers in Virginia, between your Virginian brothers and your siblings in Chile, and on and on around the world.
- B1 means that when you more fully see and feel this connection, your world will change...and naturally so will that of your global family.
- B1 calls you to action, grounded in mercy and justice, and in the tradition of United Methodists stemming back to John Wesley, rooted in our call from God to B1.
- B1 connects you to a sampling of the ways The United Methodist Church has historically and continues to empower our impoverished sisters and brothers in both love and justice through The Advance.



Jayun Jang

How Does It Work?

LOVE

Commit to B1. Fasting takes many forms. Your group can hold a 24-hour fast, fast from media for the week, or engage in another activity that enables your group to best be in solidarity with the poor.

JUSTICE

Learn about the many faces of poverty and of unjust systems. The next page outlines some of them. These facts only scratch the surface; you'll learn more about poverty and our global community through your B1 fasting event.

Help to empower local communities. After you've learned a little about what poverty is and how it looks, check out the Advance projects your group can fundraise for. These projects work daily to empower local communities...now you're a part of that work too!

HOPE

First, set an awareness goal. This is the number of people you want to tell about B1, what your youth group is doing, and how you're called to make a difference in our world and in yourself.

Next, set a fundraising goal. This is the amount of money you hope to raise to make a difference through the work of The Advance project your group chooses. Think big with both of these goals. Think creatively about the ways you ask people for money.

- Would your friends each be willing to donate the amount of money they spent on lunch at school to enable an after-school center to feed children?
- Would your church members donate the cost of their latest pair of shoes toward this journey of change?
- Could your family eat a simple meal at home on a day you would normally go out and use the money you're saving to enable farmers around the world to go out to their fields with seeds in their hands tomorrow?

Now decide what you will give. Will you be the first name on your own sponsor envelope? Use the "Pledge to B1" page to record your goals.

Collect the money from your sponsors before your youth group's fasting event. Remember to thank your sponsors for being one with you and your sisters and brothers around the world.

SERVICE

Attend your fasting event. Soak it all in so you can go back and tell your sponsors about what you learned.

JOY

After your event, thank your supporters and sponsors. Tell them about your experience, ways you were challenged, and ways you were changed...and keep changing!

The work's not done...continue to learn and work for justice.

What Is Poverty?

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has compiled the following 10 facts about World Hunger/Poverty. The websites for the organizations that provided these statistics can be found at the end of the list.

GLOBAL

1. More than **850 million people in the world go hungry**. In developing countries, nearly 11 million children die every year from preventable and treatable causes. Sixty percent of these deaths are from hunger and malnutrition.
(Bread for the World)
2. Globally, **20 percent of the world's people** in the highest-income countries **account for 86 percent of total private consumption expenditures**; the poorest 20 percent account for a minuscule 1.3 percent.
(UNDP)
3. In the developing world, **850 million people are illiterate**; nearly two-thirds of these are women.
(UNDP)
4. Every year, some 3.4 million people, mostly children, die from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene. **Over one billion people lack access to water** and over 2.4 billion lack access to basic sanitation. Access to clean water is lowest in Africa, while Asia has the largest number of people with no access to basic sanitation. Over half the hospital beds in the world are filled with people suffering from water-borne diseases.
(UNDP)
5. **Poor nutrition contributes to one out of two deaths** (53 percent) associated with infectious diseases **among children under five years old** in developing countries.
(WHO)
6. As many as **300,000 children** under the age of 18 (some as young as 8 years old) **serve in government forces or armed rebel groups**.
(HRW)

UNITED STATES

7. In the United States, 11.7 million children live in households where people have to skip meals or eat less to make ends meet. That means **one in ten households in the US is living with hunger** or is at risk of hunger.
(Bread for the World)
8. **In the US, 3.4 million youth** between the ages of 14 and 24 are **high school dropouts**.
(US Census)
9. **In the US, two-thirds of children in poverty have one or more parents who work** and one-third have a parent who works full-time, year-round. Government assistance programs provide a lifeline – yet even with safety-net programs such as food stamps, poor families continue to struggle.
(Bread for the World)
10. **The United States could cut hunger in half** within two years here at home and within two decades worldwide, **for less than 7 cents per American, per day**.
(Bread for the World)

STATISTICAL SOURCES

Bread for the World (www.bread.org)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (www.fao.org)

Human Development Reports (<http://hdr.undp.org>)

Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org)

United Nations Development Programme (www.undp.org)

World Health Organization (www.who.int/en/)



Why Is This Important?

Fast today to change tomorrow. Through B1 you'll have an opportunity to hear how young people in The United Methodist Church see and experience community.



Jayun Jang

Tension comes when we forget we're part of a community. We forget we're part of a collective, a cooperative human race. **God didn't say go and plant your own garden or live your own life. God said we're all members of one community.** We all plant and grow and harvest together. And when one neighbor suffers, the community suffers together.

– Barbara Wheeler, New York, NY



Jayun Jang

Community isn't a piece of cake

by any stretch of the imagination.

– Joseph P. Matthews, Troy, AL

...I have become convinced that we are a community, that the words of Paul are true, not because of any of our own intentions, but because that is who we are—**the deepest reality of our humanity is our interconnectedness.**

– Laura Jones, Philadelphia, PA

Community doesn't necessarily mean that I have met or encountered another person. It means simply that I have been shaken out of my own world, in which I am the lead actor, to realize that I share the stage equally.

– Mandi Janis, Washington, DC

Living in community means living justly and in right relationship with all. It means that **we cannot ignore the face of our brother or sister in need. Nor can we ignore the systems that keep them in need.** Living in community means that nobody goes homeless—and that when we continue to see our sisters and brothers denied homes, **we continue to ask why, and to act on the answer.**

– David Hosey, Mission Intern, Israel/Palestine



Rachel Harvey



Jayun Jang

So the challenge for us is to acknowledge these ideas: **You and I are integral and important parts of the lives of others**, be they our families, friends, or people we will never meet. **Our actions must prove our intentional and selfless dedication to others who depend upon us, and on whom we depend.**

– Caleb Parker, Raleigh-Durham, NC

Pledge to B1

By now you know that B1 is more than one event, it's an invitation to a different way of life. A life in which I recognize and act on my connection to my sisters and brothers next door, down the block, at the neighboring farm, across the state, and around the world.

AWARENESS-RAISING GOAL:

Before my B1 fasting event I hope to tell _____ people about poverty and the project my group is raising money for.

FINANCIAL GOAL:

Before my B1 fasting event I hope to raise \$ _____
for _____ Advance project.

HOW I'LL CONTINUE TO B1:

At my B1 fasting event, I hope to learn _____



Jayun Jang

Who Are We Connecting With?

- B1 is about making connections. Connections between our actions and their effects. Connections between scripture and our lives. Connections between our gifts and the communities we support.
- Gifts through B1 affect real people. They are children and elders, they represent every beautiful shade of God's palate, they love school, they hate school, and they come from many types of families...just like you!
- We are more similar than our minds might allow us to understand. The differences between us are the systems that affect the resources available to each of us and our families.
- The projects highlighted on the following pages represent organizations and communities empowering our poor sisters and brothers.
- "One being, being one" is not about thinking we can save someone's life through giving money or going without food for 24 hours; rather, B1 means my life is connected to my poor sisters and brothers. I make a difference in their lives when I make a difference in my life, and by how I choose to make use of my resources and privileges.

What Is The Advance?

The Advance is an accountable, designated-giving arm of The United Methodist Church that ensures 100 percent of each gift reaches its intended mission or ministry. Our work fulfills both physical and spiritual needs through a variety of partnerships worldwide to reach mutual goals that make a life-changing and long-lasting impact.

SO WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

- We don't use the money you give to pay the light bill, pay our staff, or print these materials.
- You can assure your sponsors that **100 percent of the money** they donate **will go toward the project(s) your group chooses.**

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

- A portion of your weekly offering covers The Advance's administrative expenses. So when you give money through The Advance, 100 percent of that gift reaches the projects you choose.

For more information on The Advance, check out this website: www.advancinghope.org

Or use the contact information on the back of this student handbook.



Advance Projects

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & DEVELOPMENT - GLOBAL Advance #982188

The sustainable agriculture program provides training to poor small-scale farmers through Farmer Field Schools, training the trainers, and farmer-to-farmer exchange programs that teach techniques and the importance of farming that is environmentally and economically sustainable. Workshops in snail farming, mushroom farming, and bee keeping offer the farmers a variety of agricultural opportunities.



June Kim/UMCOR

CEREIMI - CHILE Advance #09751A

Since 1990, CEREIMI has opened its doors to children from the area with economic and emotional needs. For the 50 children who attend, CEREIMI provides a nutritious meal, medical attention, and help with schoolwork. In a town of high social vulnerability, including exposure to high rates of drug and alcohol abuse, CEREIMI is like a tree, offering shelter, protection, and a place to be reminded of who they are, and where they know they belong.



Matt Morgan

GIVE YE THEM TO EAT - MEXICO Advance #07629A

Founded in 1977 as a social outreach project of the Methodist Church in Mexico, Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE) serves marginalized families in the rural sector of South Central Mexico. Through trainings in the areas of health, farming, and teaching, GYTTE provides communities with the skills needed for positive community development. Each year, ten families are trained in livestock care and production; at the end of the training the families receive an animal from the GYTTE herd.



Adam Neal

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW POTATO PROJECT - USA Advance #801600

Since 1979, the Society of St. Andrew's Potato Project has worked with major potato growers and potato chip companies to save rejected loads of potatoes to feed the hungry across the United States for the cost of packaging and freight (approximately two pennies per serving). Fresh produce is also gleaned from fields by volunteers. Annually, approximately 15 million pounds of produce are provided through the Potato Project.



Courtesy of Society of St. Andrew Potato Project

Advance Projects Continued

COMBATING HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION - GHANA Advance #120004

In 2008 the Combating Hunger and Malnutrition project received a grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to start a moringa plant farm in the Ashanti region of Ghana. Moringa leaves are an excellent source of vitamins, minerals, and protein. Ashanti women work on the farm to strengthen their community through incorporating moringa leaves into the children's school lunches. In addition to their nutritional benefits, the moringa leaves are also used to purify water and treat cuts.



Courtesy of Combating Hunger and Malnutrition

HAITIAN CREOLE PIG PROJECT - HAITI Advance #418002

The Haitian Creole Pig Project is improving health and economics through the reintroduction of the Creole pig. The Creole pig is known as the "peasant's savings account." In 1988 the forced extermination of the pigs left many farmers emotionally and economically devastated. Each year, the Haitian Creole Pig Project provides 177 pigs to farmers, and 40 percent of those pigs are given to women's groups. Through a six-day training session, participants will gain skills in veterinary care for pigs and piglets, and in rearing and fattening the pigs.



Selena Tramel/Grassroots International



Matt Morgan

CEREIMI
Advance #09751A

one being,
being one



The Advance
General Board of Global Ministries
475 Riverside Drive, Room 350
New York, NY 10115

Telephone: 212-870-3790
Fax: 212-870-3775
Email: advance@gbgm-umc.org
www.advancinghope.org

To learn more about The Advance and to donate online, go to: www.advancinghope.org

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